

Transcript of Mayor's Address on Thursday, March 26, 2020

You might ask yourself, "Why does Jefferson County need a declaration of emergency?" I just read in this document that the Governor of the state has declared a state of emergency, the President of the United States has declared a state of emergency. We all understand that we're in a state of emergency, so why do we need this?

This is a procedural thing, government-wise, for Jefferson County. It waives certain requirements that we have in the bid process. If we needed certain supplies and they exceeded \$10,000, which is our bid limit, we would have to bid the process. But in an emergency, by declaring this declaration, we could waive that bid process, and we could buy the supplies or the things that we need to help in the county. The other thing it will do is it will help us with TEMA and FEMA as we succeed to recover or get reimbursed for costs associated with the COVID-19 virus.

So, what do we need to do differently because we are now declared as a state of emergency in Jefferson County? Well, we need to keep doing the good things that we are doing to help combat the COVID-19 virus. We need to wash our hands frequently. We need to cover our cough and sneeze. We also need to disinfect our high-contact areas frequently, such as our phones, our computers, and our work areas. We need to practice social distance between each other. Other things that we can do—we can shop wisely. That means that we can pick the times that we go to the grocery store or wherever we need to go to get our supplies. There's time set aside by different stores for our seniors to come so they'll have less exposure. You should shop but not hoard. Remember our restaurants do not have the ability to serve inside dining now. You can do carry-out, you can do call-in, and you can help your friends and neighbors in the restaurant business by doing this.

There's no reason to be alarmed. We will get through this crisis. Jefferson County is resilient. I'm always amazed by the cooperation and the speed of Jefferson County to meet the needs. You're doing a great job. We will get through this crisis, and may God bless you. My prayers are with you. Thank you.